

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 /049 R

DRAFTED BY INR/REATJONES

7/17/73 EXT. 22574

APPROVED BY EA/K:DLRANARD

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R 172103Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, KS

SUBJ: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON STATUS OF KIM HYUNG WOOK

REF: (A) STATE 132614 (B) SEOUL 4393

1. WASHINGTON POST ON JULY 17 RAN TOKYO DISPATCH BY MANCHESTER GUARDIAN'S ROBERT WHEYMANT CLAIMING KIM HYUNG WOOK IN HIDING IN US. KOREAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IS QUOTED AS HAVING SPOKEN WITH KIM IN NEW YORK WHO BRANDED REPORT "ABSOLUTE NONSENSE".

2. STORY GIVES KIM'S ROK CIA BACKGROUND FOCUSING ON HIS DIRECTION OF 1967 ABDUCTIONS OF KOREAN STUDENTS FROM FRANCE AND GERMANY. WHEYMANT SPECULATES THAT KIM NOW ESTRANGED FROM PRESIDENT PARK DUE TO OCTOBER 1972 CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AND NORTH-SOUTH TALKS WITH FLIGHT SPARKED BY ARREST OF YUN PIL YUNG. STORY NOTES UNIDENTIFIED "CRITICS" WHO WILL LINK KIM, YUN PIL YUNG AND LEE JAE HYON CASES TO CLAIM THESE INDICATE ROKG INSTABILITY.

3. WE SUSPECT KIM TAE JUNG, NOW IN TOKYO, IS SOURCE OF STORY. KIM MAY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO BUTTRESS HIS VERACITY
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BY INCORRECTLY ATTRIBUTING TO "A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL"

THAT KIM HYUN WOOK HAD "SOUGHT REFUGE" BUT NOT OFFICIALLY

APPLIED FOR ASYLUM. IN FACT, WHEN KIM TAE JUNG ON JULY
5 (REF A) CONFIRMED EARLIER RUMORS THAT KIM HYUN WOOK IN
US HE WAS TOLD THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACT WITH US OFFICIALS.
AT THAT TIME KIM TAE CHUNG CLAIMED KIM HAD SOUGHT REFUGE
IN US.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING APPROXIMATELY WHEN KIM LEFT
SEOUL FOR U.S. AND WHAT KIND OF PASSPORT HE IS USING. RUSH

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